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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/629,864	UMEYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LOHA BEN	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' papers dated January 21, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28,29,31-38 and 60-69.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/818,561.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 0505.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>See Continuation Sheet.</u> |



Loha Ben
Primary Examiner

Art Unit: ***

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

Page 46: line 1, "distan" has been changed to – distance --.

Page 120: line 26, "particl s" has been replaced with – particles --.

Page 134: line 27, "exist" has been changed to – exists --.

In the Drawings

Figs. 67-70 have been labeled each – PRIOR ART --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention as recited in the two independent claims 28 and 60 distinguishes over the prior art Figs. 67-70 contained the present case in that, by introducing the idea of having an extrusion or projection in a vicinity of an edge portion of an orifice plate (or sheet member) that is mounted to the main body of the liquid discharge recording head, one can prevent the eventual peeling-off of the orifice plate which would ultimately damage the recording head beyond recovery by repetition of wiping operations after long period of use. Further, the extrusion or projection has a second utility, and that is to clean the ink from the end part of the wiping blade during the wiping operations.

Art Unit: ***

The three patents issued to Takahashi et al and cited in the PTO-892 attached herewith teach an extrusion 104a of the porous absorbing member 104 arranged at the end portion of the discharge face 101a (Fig. 9) of the head unit 100. Such an extrusion has a similar utility as above. However, these patents fail to teach the orifice plate or sheet member of the present claims 28 and 60. Therefore, after a long period of use, the wiping blade will damage the head unit 100. Based on the design of the device of the patents, such as the one depicted in Figs. 5-8 and 11-18, the concept of having the orifice plate or sheet member with the head unit would not be desirable because of the tapered portion 101c which leaves some room for the wiping blade to hit the end portion of the orifice plate, if this orifice plate is ever used with the head unit. When this happens, the peeling-off phenomenon will take place.

In light of the differences pointed out above, the motivation to combine the prior art Figs. 67-70 with the three patents in consideration is not seen reasonable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Loha Ben whose telephone number is (571) 272-2323. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Saturday, generally between 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m.

Art Unit: ***

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps, can be reached on Monday to Friday, at (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

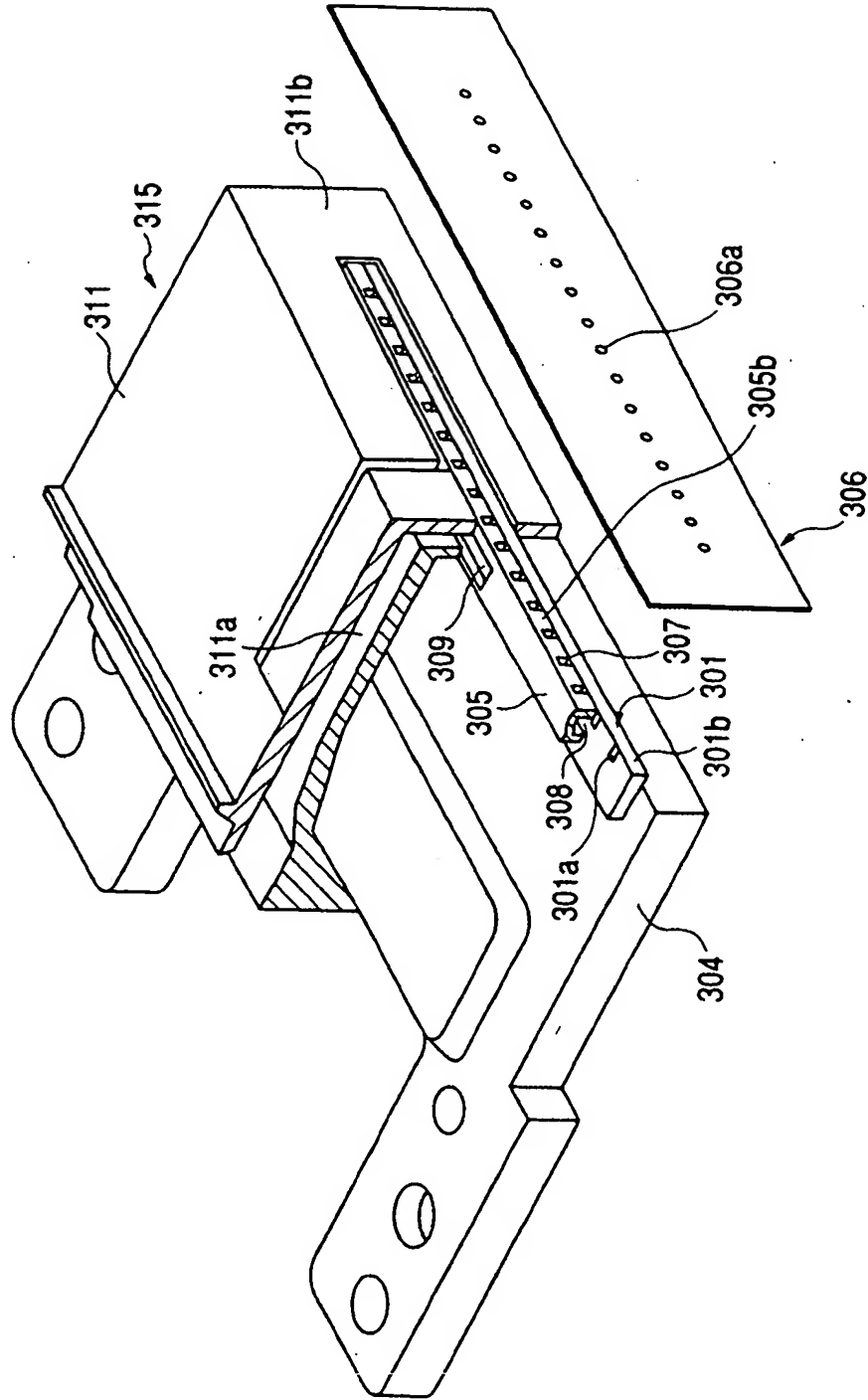
May 25, 2005



Loh Ben
Primary Examiner

46 / 48

FIG. 67 (PRIOR ART)



10/629,864

5/2/20
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10/629, 864

47/48

FIG. 68 (PRIOR ART)

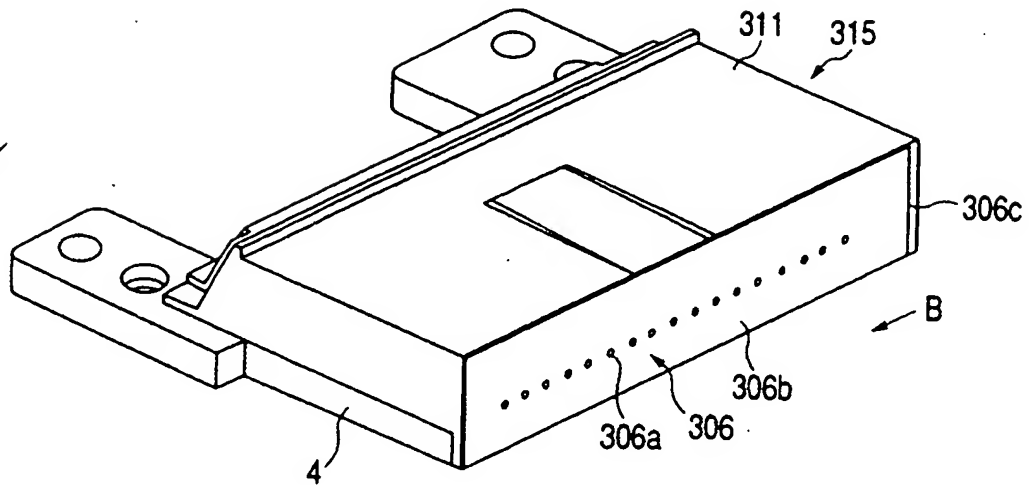


FIG. 70 (PRIOR ART)

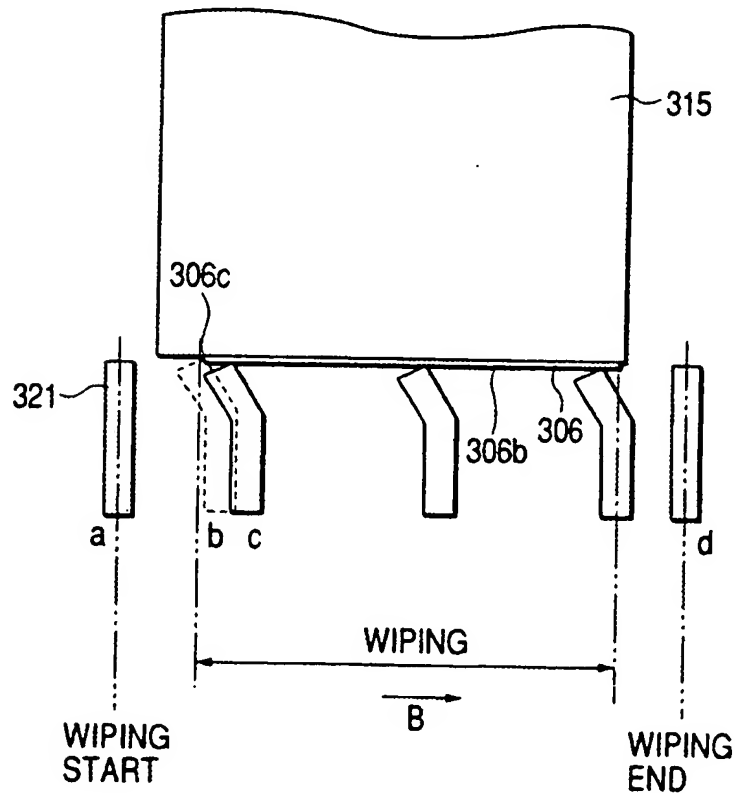
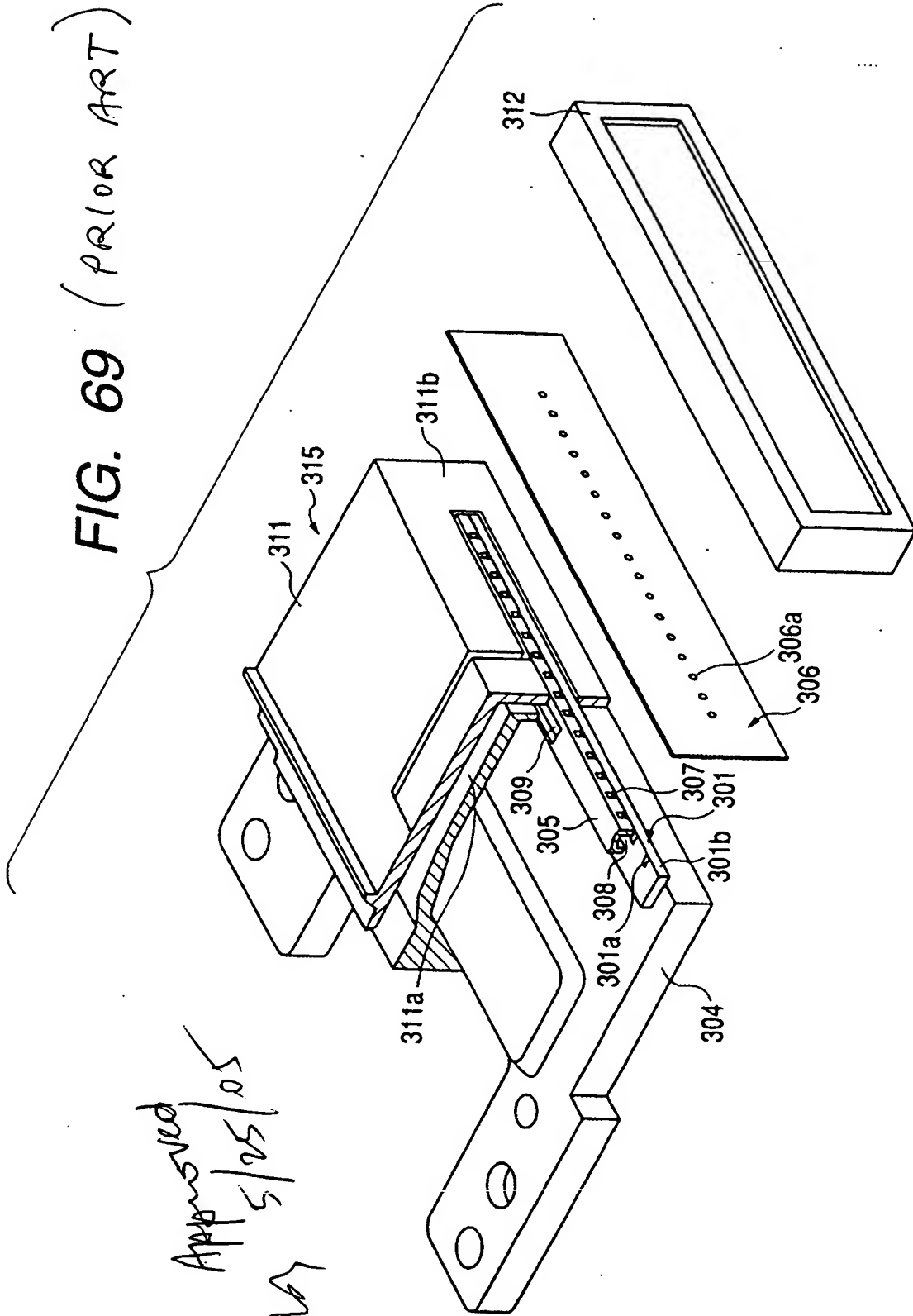


FIG. 69 (PRIOR ART)



Approved
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LA

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